



Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council

www.highlands.state.nj.us

100 North Road

Chester, New Jersey 07930

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura Szwak (908) 879-6737 x 130

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Highlands Council to Sponsor Landowner Forum

Chester, NJ- The New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council is sponsoring a Highlands Landowner Forum on April 5, 2006 at 6 p.m. The Forum will be held at the Council's office, 100 North Road (Route 513) in Chester. The event will be an opportunity for landowners in the Highlands Region to learn about State land conservation programs and meet representatives from State entities and non-profit agencies that preserve land.

The program will include presentations from Ms. Susan Craft, Executive Director of the State Agriculture Development Committee, who will discuss the State's Farmland Preservation program; Mr. Richard Osborn of NJDEP's Green Acres program who will describe open space preservation; Mr. James Wyse, Esq., from the law firm of Herold & Haines, who works with landowners on the economic aspects of land conservation; and Mr. Jeff LeJava, Esq., an attorney with the Highlands Council who will describe the status of the Council's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.

After the program, landowners will be able to meet with the State entities and representatives from nonprofit land conservation organizations, county open space programs and county agriculture development boards. In this "open house" format, landowners can discuss their land and preservation options with a variety of individuals knowledgeable about the process of land conservation.

The following organizations will be represented at the event: Morris Land Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Passaic River Coalition, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance as well as representatives from Morris, Passaic, and Warren Counties.

"The Highlands Council is convening this event in response to questions and concerns expressed at our public meetings," said John Weingart, Chairman of the Highlands Council. "We hope to connect Highlands land owners who may want to consider selling their property for conservation with some of the government and non-profit agencies which may be able to assist them."

Highlands Councilmember Debbie Pasquarelli added that "The event will link landowners who have been impacted by the Highlands Act with those professionals who are directly involved in the day-to-day process for land conservation."

To attend the Forum, please contact Ms. Sue Schmidt at the Highlands Council at (908) 879-6737. For more information about the event, please contact Laura Szwak at the Highlands Council at extension 130.

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